

<p>The Ellsworth Town Board met Monday, September 9, 2024 at 6:45 p.m. at the Town Hall. The meeting notice had been posted August 29, 2024 at the town hall, website, Kenny’s Lawton Bar, and published in the September 4, 2024 issue of the Pierce County Journal. All Town Board members Chair Billeter, Supervisors Ristow and Borner, Treasurer Hines, Clerk Beastrom were present.</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING</b></p>
<p>Chair Billeter called the meeting to order.  MSC to move into closed session per WI Stats 19.85(1)(c) to discuss employee compensation. (Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow)  MSC to adjourn closed session. (Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner).</p>	<p><b>CLOSED SESSION</b></p>
<p>Chair Billeter resumed the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Town residents present were Hannah Ninneman, John Huber, Tim Lorenz, Barry Foy, Sheldon Huppert, maintenance Tim Westerberg and Don Jakes and guest Nikki Westerberg.  The minutes of the August 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting had been distributed prior to this meeting and were available at the meeting.  MSC to accept the August 5<sup>th</sup> minutes.  (Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner)</p>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p> <p><b>MINUTES</b></p>
<p>Clerk presented current financial report: checking \$20,088.58; LGIP General \$124,378.25; LGIP Machinery \$125,833.70; LGIP town Hall Fund \$109,428.17; Cash on hand \$25, Money Market \$166,367.93. In August the Town received the tax settlement from the County in amount of \$126,318.39.  MSC to accept the financial report.  (Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner).</p>	<p><b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b></p>
<p>Public Comments: Kenneth Schingledecker spoke on behalf of the residents of 430<sup>th</sup> Ave. stating 430<sup>th</sup> Ave has a lot of daily traffic because of the designated hunting area on Pearson’s land, and the road is narrow. They would like to have a traffic counter placed on the road through deer hunting season. Chair explained they could probably get a traffic counter for a couple of weeks from the county and there would be a charge. Mr. Schingledecker mentioned they will look into other options for a traffic counter. He also stated in the winter the trees on the south side of 430<sup>th</sup> Avenue cause a traffic hazard and they should be removed as the snow turns to ice because of lack of sun. Maintenance was instructed to trim the trees in the right of way.</p>	<p><b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b></p>
<p>Maintenance Don Jakes reported: 1- they have been patching, brushing, did the grader overlay and 10 T of smear overlay; 2- asked for quotes for signs; 3 - purchased new ladder, and 4 – 1/3 to 1/2 done mowing first round again and then will do broader cut.</p>	<p><b>ROAD WORK</b></p>
<p>Chair announced Mark Peterson would like a preconstruction meeting later this week for the 490<sup>th</sup> Avenue project. They should be starting the road project shortly.</p>	<p><b>490<sup>th</sup> AVE LRIP RD PROJECT</b></p>
<p>Mark Peterson at Ayres will send the ARIP project for 570<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 530<sup>th</sup> Street by September 30<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<p><b>ARIP PROJECT</b></p>
<p>MSC to approve the Conditional Use Permit as recommended by the Plan Commission for Hannah Ninneman’s nature based occupational therapy and enrichment group program providing outdoor activities for children to promote skill development for gross motor, fine motor, balance, coordination, sensory and emotional support.  (Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner)</p>	<p><b>NINNEMAN CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT</b></p>

The clerk received waiver request from Jason Szymanski to allow a shared driveway as access to the 3 parcels of CSM V 16 P 134 as it is the best and safest access for these parcels. Clerk had notified the neighbors within 300 feet and no one has objected. MSC to approve waiver to the Town Road and Driveway Ordinance for this parcel and allow shared driveway access from 670<sup>th</sup> Street for Lots 4, 5, and 6 CSM V 16 P 134. (Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow)

SHARED  
DRIVEWAY  
WAIVER

Steve Thoner had contacted Chair Billeter stating they would sell their 7 acres and structure along Highway 10 to the town for \$550,000. Chair Billeter, Supervisor Ristow, and Clerk Beasstrom looked at the Huppert farm house as a possibility for storing election equipment and possible office but it was larger than what the town needs.

PROPERTY  
OFFER  
RENT  
HOUSE

Chair and Supervisor Ristow had looked into the possibility of renting temporary 40' office storage containers from Ironclad Storage at County Rd B and I94. These temporary office storage containers have heat and air conditioning, with an office area and a storage area.

TEMPORARY  
OFFICE  
STORAGE  
CONTAINER

Motion by Brad Ristow the town rent a 40 foot office container.

Gordon Borner stated he would second the motion so the board could have discussion. Supervisor Borner stated he wanted to see the temporary office container before making any decision. Chair Billeter stated the town has not committed or signed any agreement with Ironclad – information is being collected and presented as a possible solution for storage of items currently at the clerk's home. Supervisor Borner was not committed to the motion. After further discussion, Supervisor Ristow commented to Chair Billeter that he will have to vote to break the tie. Supervisor Borner then stated he would vote in favor of the motion, followed by affirmative votes from Supervisor Ristow and Chair Billeter. Motion carried.

No operator licenses applications.

OP LICENSES

Clerk voiced election concerns: 1 – For the August primary, the air quality in the church basement was not good – it was very musty and moldy and this is not the first time the basement has been this way. They have dehumidifiers running. For individuals to be working all day in this atmosphere is not healthy.

ELECTION  
CONCERNS

2 – The second concern is more critical. The Clerk had attended an election training and the question was posed if there were to be a threat, or an unusual circumstance, can your election workers get out of the building safely. The answer to this is No – there is a narrow stairway at the south end of the building but not all election inspectors are capable of using a stairway. So if there were a situation in the main entrance hall, the elections workers would not be able to get out of the building quickly.

3 – For the 2020 election, I asked individuals to monitor the hallway and parking lot to be sure everyone remains safe and I would like to do that also for the 2024 election. Clerk was told to proceed with what she thought best.

Clerk had spoken with a Wausau representative from E. O. Johnson regarding the scanning of town records. They have a US product so we will not be working with anyone overseas. All the documents on the clerk computer can be transferred to the document management system. The Town Board and other authorized users will be able to access the information. He stated he would have the gentleman from the Eau Office call me.

SCANNING  
RECORDS

The following bills were reviewed for payment: Consumer Cooperative \$ 124.06 (gas); Chippewa Valley Energy \$ 2543.72 (diesel); Column 160.81 (publishing in Pierce

BILLS

County Journal); Companion Animal Control \$139.53 and Western Wisconsin Animal Services \$50 (kitten control); GFL \$305.79 (refuse hauling); Owen Assessing \$660.00 (assessing contract); Rural Mutual \$8,242.00 (Workmen's Comp \$2908.00; liability and equipment \$ \$5334).

(MSC to pay the bills.

(Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow).

Brian O'Connell, Supervisor Ristow, and Clerk Beastrom attended the Scott Zimmer ETZ meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> regarding rezoning the property from agriculture to residential-1. After much discussion, it was determined the zoning request cannot happen as the village has to provide water and sewer to Residential-1 properties. The application has to be resubmitted correctly.

SCOTT  
ZIMMER  
ETZ  
MEETING

Clerk distributed the levy limit worksheet for 2024 to levy taxes for 2025 and the town can raise it's levy by \$155. Clerk asked if the board wanted to use the resolution process and propose a percentage or dollar increase for the levy which would be approved at a town meeting. They proposed an increase of 18% - slightly more than \$75,000. Clerk will follow DOR guidelines and present the resolution at the October meeting.

LEVY  
INCREASE

Correspondence: 1 –Pierce County Land use permits: April – Charles Beebe (detached garage and breezeway); Bignell Trust (uniform address); June – uniform address for Cody Zimmer and Casey Wilcox; July – Michelle Jilk (pole shed) and James Szymanski (Uniform addresses for the 3 lots on his CSM); August - Thia Rewolinski, garage and porch; and Michael Bombardo sanitary. 2 – received Transfer station burn permit from DNR; 3- the town's 2024 estimated population is 1127; 4 – 2025 personal property aid will be \$4,548.77; 5 – Rick Hageman enrolled 10 A in MFL; 6 – notice from Grass Roots Organizing Western Wisconsin of CAFO Operators Ordinance meeting Saturday. Oct 5 at Village of Elmwood office from 2-4.

CORRES-  
PONDENCE

Animal issues: Clerk had sent board members Brit Harmon's response regarding Bryniarski dogs. She had contacted the Bryniarski's after the complaint had been filed. She has sent e-mail to the Shaw's with no response. It is the town's responsibility to see that the dogs are licensed.

ANIMALS

Next board meeting will be Monday, October 7 at 7 p.m.

NEXT MTG

MSC to adjourn  
(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner).

ADJOURN

Phyllis Beastrom, Clerk